

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 AID-20 L-03 H-03 DRC-01

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:HAMRICK:OSM

APPROVED BY AF/C:COHEN

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R 262125Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CF, CM

SUBJECT: US/CONGO RELATIONS

REF: YAOUNDE 4157

1. WE FULLY SUPPORT THE POINTS YOU MADE WITH GANGA IN YOUR CONVERSATION OF DECEMBER 19 REGARDING NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CONGO BRAZZAVILLE.

2. AS YOU KNOW, BRAZZAVILLE HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR SOME TIME FOR OPTIONS TO RELIEVE ITS CRITICAL FINANCIAL SITUATION. IN THAT CONTEXT--AND IN VIEW OF THE STEPS WE TOOK IN 1972--ANY FURTHER INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME MIGHT SUGGEST THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HELPING SOLVE ITS MANY COMPLEX PROBLEMS. AS YOU POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, BRAZZAVILLE SHOULD NOT COUNT ON ANY ASSISTANCE COMMITMENT AS THE PRICE FOR RESUMING RELATIONS. ACCORDINGLY, WE CONCUR FULLY WITH YOUR INCLINATION PARA 9 REFTEL TO AWAIT SOME FURTHER INDICATION OF BRAZZAVILLE
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ATTITUDES BEFORE DISCUSSING SUBJECT FURTHER.

3. IF GANGA QUERIES YOU FURTHER REGARDING USG REACTION TO YOUR CONVERSATION OF DEC. 19, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT THE USG STANDS READY TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS AT ANY TIME THE CONGOLESE GOVT IS AGREEABLE WITHOUT ANY PRECONDITIONS ON EITHER SIDE. IN THE PAST, WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT AMB. MCKESSON AT LIBREVILLE WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE WITH WHOM A DISCUSSION OF THE REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS COULD BE FURTHER EXPLORED AND WE WOULD CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND THAT CHANNEL, UNLESS THE GOC WOULD PREFER AN ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENT. FYI IN THE PAST, NGOUAGI HAS PROFESSED A CERTAIN CONFUSION REGARDING THE MANY CONTACTS HE HAS ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED REGARDING A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE US AND FOR THAT REASON WE WOULD PREFER TO MAINTAIN OUR ORIGINAL CHANNEL OF CONTACT IN LIBREVILLE. END FYI

4. FOR MCKESSON IN LIBREVILLE: DOUBT THAT INITIATIVE DESCRIBED YAOUNDE 4157 HAS MORE SUBSTANCE THAN ANY OF ITS PREDECESSORS, BUT LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION WHETHER OR NOT BONGO OR RAWIRI SHOULD BE INFORMED. KISSINGER

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